SMH Candidate Worksheet

Name: Ryan T. Reynolds

Present position and affiliation: Assistant Professor of History and Intelligence & Security Studies, University of Alabama in Huntsville

Education: Ph.D., History, Mississippi State University, 2024

Area(s) of historical specialization: Twentieth-century U.S. history; civil-military relations; policing; national security and intelligence studies

Relevant special appointments:

- Virtual Programs Fellow, Society for Intelligence History, 2023–2024
- Curriculum development for Intelligence and Security Studies and Space Security and Policy, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, University of Alabama in Huntsville

SMH conference attendance, participation, and committee service:

- "Building the Blue Wall: Paramilitary Policing and American Associational Defense," Society for Military History's Vice-Presidential Panel, Arlington, VA (April 2024).
- "Constructing the Unpopular: Street Art, Meaning, and Military Memory," Society for Military History, San Diego, CA (March 2023).
- " 'My Dungeon Shook': James Baldwin, Literature, and American Insurgency," Society for Military History, Fort Worth, TX (April 2022).
- Editorial Advisory Board, (Graduate Student Representative), *Journal of Military History*, 2022–2024.
- Summer Seminar in Military History, National World War II Museum, 2022.

Significant publications:

The Paramilitary Turn: Cold War Policing and the American Garrison State. Battlegrounds: Cornell Studies in Military History. Cornell University Press, forthcoming December 2026.

"Shaking the Dungeon: James Baldwin and the Strategies of Subversion and Surveillance." *The Strategy Bridge*, Special Edition Issue (August 2022).

"Pearl of the Orient Seas: America's Targeted Civilian Pacification Efforts in the Philippine War." *Journal of America's Military Past* 44, no. 1 (Winter 2019): 48–68.

Personal statement:

The Society for Military History has been an important part of my development as a scholar, and I would welcome the opportunity to give back to that community as a trustee. As a graduate student, I benefited directly from the SMH's support through the Russell F. Weigley Graduate Student Travel Grant, the Summer Seminar in Military History, service on the editorial board of the *Journal of Military History*, and opportunities to present my research at annual meetings. Those experiences helped me find an intellectual community within the field and reinforced for me the importance of professional organizations that invest in scholars at every stage of their careers.

The relationships I developed through the SMH also helped shape how I approach military history. Conversations and collaborations with scholars working across the field encouraged me to think more broadly about the connections between military institutions and other parts of American society. Those influences are reflected in my research on civil-military relations and strategic development, particularly my focus on the relationships between the U.S. military, law enforcement, intelligence agencies, and other national security institutions. I believe the SMH can continue to foster these kinds of intellectual connections by bringing together historians, scholars, and practitioners with different perspectives and areas of expertise, while remaining a home for the rigorous study of war and military institutions.

As a trustee, I would bring the perspective of an early-career scholar, teacher, and Army veteran. I am committed to sustaining the mentorship and professional development opportunities the SMH already provides and finding new ways to connect members across different career paths and areas of military history. I would be honored to contribute to that work and to serve the SMH as it continues to grow.